

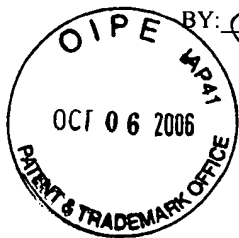
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, ON THE DATE INDICATED BELOW.

BY:

Lisa R. Haines

DATE:

10/4/06



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: James A. Hoxie *et al.*

Attorney Docket No. 53893-5046-00-US

Application No.: 10/767,648

Group Art Unit: 1648

Filed: January 29, 2004

Examiner: Agnieszka Boesen

Title: COMPOSITIONS, METHODS AND KITS RELATING TO DELETION MUTATIONS OF IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS GP120 HYPERVARIABLE REGIONS

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

This Response is responsive to the Restriction Requirement mailed April 4, 2006 (Paper No./Mail Date 20060331) in connection with the above-captioned application. This Response is being timely filed in view of the Petition for a Five-Month Extension of Time and accompanying fee being filed herewith, which extends the time for response up to and including October 4, 2006.

Responsive to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the claims of Group I, claims 1-16, drawn to an isolated nucleic acid encoding a mammalian immunodeficiency virus glycoprotein (gp) 120 polypeptide. Applicants also elect: 1) human immunodeficiency virus type 2 (HIV-2); 2) deletion of V3 region ($\Delta V3(6,6)$); and 3) the sequence of "SEQ ID NO:11" within Group I claims. Further, Applicants *provisionally* elect the mutation of amino acid position number 393, with respect to claims 7-11. The mutation election is made with traverse. The entire response set forth herein is made without prejudice to the inclusion of the subject matter of the non-elected claims and subject matter in any later-filed divisional or continuation application(s).